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Spring 2-1-1999

# PSC 387.01: Legislative Politics

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA  
Department of Political Science

PSc 387 Legislative Politics  
Spring 1999  
Dr. Laslovich

Office: LA 354  
Hrs: MW 9-10:00,  
W 1-2:00, and  
by app't (4418)

Course Description

Analysis of the structure, processes, and politics of the U.S. Congress. Topics include member-constituent relations, party leadership, the committee system, and House-Senate relations. Case studies will be utilized to analyze and assess the role of Congress in the policy-making process.

Texts

Students are required to read the following texts which are available at the University Bookstore:

Arnold, Douglas. The Logic of Congressional Action. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990,

Davidson, Roger H. and Walter J. Oleszek. Congress and Its Members. 6th edition. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, 1998, and

Sinclair, Barbara. Unorthodox Lawmaking, New Legislative Processes in the U.S. Congress. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, 1997.

Course Requirements

Students will be evaluated upon the following basis:

Exam 1 (Feb. 17) Topics I-III .....	15%
Research paper prospectus (Due Feb. 12 IN CLASS) .....	5%
Exam 2 (March 26) Topics IV-VI .....	20%
Research Paper (Due March 12 IN CLASS) .....	20%
Research Paper #2 (Due April 12 IN CLASS) .....	20%
Final Exam (Tues., May 11, 1:10-3:10) Topics VII-X .....	20%

NOTE - a "C" letter grade is required to receive a "passing" grade for the P/NP grading option.

Drop/Add and Grading Option Policies

Feb. 12 - Last day to add/drop by Dial Bear. NOTE: last day to receive a full refund for classes dropped.

March 8 - Last day to drop/add and change to change grade option.

Makeup Exam Policy

Students who are excused from a scheduled examination may write a makeup exam. In fairness to all students, exam absences must be approved by the instructor.

### Research Papers

Students select a research topic of their choice. Research paper prospectuses are DUE Feb 12 IN CLASS.

Please note that this is to be a research paper. Consequently the amount of research undertaken, and the ability to marshal that information effectively, will be crucial in the evaluation of the paper.

The paper should range between 10 to 15 double-spaced typed pages. The first paper is due March 12 in class; the second April 12 in class. Late papers will be penalized **TWO** points per day.

The Classroom Learning Environment (authored by Dr. Ronald Perrin, Professor of Political Theory)

Wherever the learning process takes place (for example, in the library or the seclusion of one's study) it does so best when there are a minimum of distractions. This requirement poses special challenges for the learning that takes place in the lecture hall or the classroom, where the possibility of distractions is the greatest.

In order to establish and maintain a supportive learning environment for my students I will not tolerate the few individuals who might be prone to a) come to class late or leave early, b) carry on private conversations during class, or c) use the lecture hall/classroom as an opportunity to read material, such as the Kaimin, that is not relevant to the subject matter under consideration.

The only exception to these conditions concern students whose work schedules or unanticipated appointments require them to arrive for class late or leave early. In these circumstances I would appreciate knowing of the circumstance before it occurs and, in all such instances, request that students do so as unobtrusively as possible. Thank you.

Lecture Topics and Readings - Supplemental readings may be added during the course of the semester.

- I    Introduction  
Davidson and Oleszek, chapters 1 and 2.
- II   Recruitment and Elections  
Davidson and Oleszek, chapters 3 and 4.
- III The Representation Problematic  
Davidson and Oleszek, chapter 5.
- IV   Congressional Leadership  
Davidson and Oleszek, chapter 6.
- V    Committee System  
Davidson and Oleszek, chapter 7.
- VI   Logic of Congressional Action  
Arnold.  
Davidson and Oleszek, chapter 9.

Lecture Topics and Readings (continued)

- VII Unorthodox Lawmaking  
Sinclair.  
Davidson, chapters 8, 12 and 13.
- VIII Congress and the President  
Davidson and Oleszek, chapters 10 and 14.
- IX Congress, Bureaucracy and the Courts  
Davidson and Oleszek, chapter 11.
- X Conclusion  
Davidson and Oleszek, chapter 15.

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